

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method is disclosed for transmitting data packets
in wide area networks (WAN) by way of a synchronous
digital data transmission network (SDH), wherein the data
packets are packed into synchronous transport modules
(STM-N) and are transmitted by way of virtual connections
formed by subunits of synchronous transport modules of
the same size. The virtual connections are entered into
an address table and an evaluation of the target address
10 of the data packets takes place in one of the network
elements of the synchronous digital data transmission
network. On the basis of the address table and the target
address, at least for a part of the data packets, a
decision is made by at least one of the network elements
15 of the synchronous digital data transmission network as
to which one of the virtual connections is used to
transmit this data packet. Furthermore, a network
element is disclosed, which operates in accordance with
the transmission method.